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**MAR 09 2007**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of	:	
RUDOLPH et al	:	
Application No.: 10/795,769	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filing Date: March 8, 2004	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No.: IM1319USNA	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed December 4, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a late claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not satisfy item (1) above.

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The

relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states that the application "claims priority benefit from US application number 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. See MPEP Section 201.11, Rev. 5, August 2006, Reference to Prior Application. The Application Data Sheet (ADS) filed December 4, 2006 fails to state the relationship of Application No. 10/507,950, filed February 15, 2005, to the instant application.

Before the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(a)(5)) or a proper amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121) to correct the above matters are required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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